

flow between the typically isolated populations must be relatively small. If this is not the case, it remains a challenge to explain why selection has not favored the establishment of reproductive barriers between species.

The present study was initiated to test the potential for genetic experimentation in *Isoetes*. The preliminary results were very successful and indicate further and wider genetic studies would be beneficial. Such future hybridization research should take advantage of the artificial crossing technique recently described for *Selaginella* (Webster, 1979). The method appears to be well suited for *Isoetes* crossing with little or no modification, and will permit more critical experimentation than ever could be possible with the non-sterile technique employed in the present study.

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#### REVIEW

**"THE ECONOMIC USES AND ASSOCIATED FOLKLORE OF FERNS AND FERN ALLIES,"** by Lenore Wile May, *Botanical Review* 44:491–528. 1979—As stated by the author, this paper is not taxonomic in nature, but discusses fern folklore and to a lesser extent their economic history. It provides an easily read text for the generalist and a good bibliography for those persons interested in pursuing this topic further. Some of the section titles include: Folklore, Fern Dyes, Fern Fibers, Fern Foods, Medicinal Uses of Ferns, The Male Fern, and The Bracken Fern. The section on medicinal uses occupies forty percent of this article, with related medicinal notes in the folklore portion. The author mentions the following about *Ophioglossum vulgatum*: "This plant is called adder's tongue because out of every leaf it sendith forth a kind of pedestal like an adder's tongue, it cureth the biting of serpents."—J. Scott Peterson, *Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523*.